

United States Attorney Southern District of New York

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U.S. ACCUSES N.J. MAN WITH TRAVELING TO NEW YORK CITY TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTS WITH A MINOR GIRL

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and PASQUALE D'AMURO, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the FBI, announced that MATTHEW ADAM BRAND, 36, of Jackson, New Jersey, was arrested outside the Port Authority Bus Terminal after he had traveled from New Jersey to New York to meet and engage in sexual acts with a person he allegedly thought was a 13-year old girl that he had met over the internet.

According to the Complaint filed earlier today in

Manhattan federal court, BRAND, using the screen name

"Tempoteech," communicated with a special agent of the FBI acting
in an undercover capacity and posing as a 13-year old girl.

BRAND identified himself as a voice teacher from New Jersey and e-mailed the undercover agent a photograph of himself.

From about January 23, 2004, up to February 11, 2004, during the course of their internet conversations, it was charged that:

- a. BRAND offered to give the undercover agent free singing lessons and asked the agent if she would like to act or model.
- b. the agent informed BRAND that the person with whom he was communicating was "only 13," and sent BRAND a photograph of a young teen-age girl that was purportedly a photograph of the minor girl with whom he believed he was communicating.
- c. BRAND said that the purported minor girl could model for a calendar he was putting together and pose with "puppets and giant toys."
- d. BRAND asked the purported minor girl if she had a boyfriend and asked whether the girl wanted to date an older man. BRAND stated that he "would love to have [the girl] as a girlfriend," and asked the girl to be his valentine.
- e. BRAND indicated that he would engage in certain sexual activity with the purported girl, including, but not limited to, kissing, "touch and

play," "fool around and explore," and "do it all."
BRAND stated that they could go to his place in
"jersey," that he would show the girl "how to be a
woman," and proceeded to describe additional
sexual activity that he wanted to engage in with
the girl.

f. BRAND also stated that he loved the girl and the purported girl informed him that she could only talk to and see him at certain times because of her mother, and that she was a virgin.

According to the Complaint, on about February 11, 2004, BRAND had several recorded telephone calls with a person posing as the same 13-year old girl he had communicated with over the internet, and BRAND arranged to meet the minor girl the next day at the Port Authority Bus Terminal in Manhattan. BRAND also stated that he would travel from New Jersey to New York and take the minor girl back to New Jersey with him. During at least one of these telephone conversations, BRAND allegedly discussed, among other things, certain sexual acts that he and the minor girl would engage in after they met. Furthermore, BRAND allegedly said that the girl would not get pregnant because he intended to use a condom.

According to the Complaint, on about February 12, 2004, at the arranged time and meeting place at the Port Authority,

BRAND was arrested by FBI agents and in a post-arrest statement, after being advised of, and voluntarily waiving, his Miranda rights, BRAND stated, in sum and substance, among other things, that he is the sole user of the "Tempoteech" screen name and that he had traveled from New Jersey to New York to meet a person he believed to be the 13-year old minor girl with whom he had previously spoken to and communicated with over the internet. Furthermore, recovered from BRAND's person and his car, among other things, was a sign bearing the name of the minor girl, condoms, and a list with names and birth dates of other minor children.

The defendant is expected to be presented later today before United States Magistrate Judge GABRIEL W. GORENSTEIN in Manhattan federal court.

The defendant is charged in the Complaint with traveling across state lines for the purpose of engaging in a sexual act with a person under 18 years of age. If convicted, the defendant faces a mandatory minimum of five, and a maximum of 30 years in prison.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the FBI in this case and said that the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorney BRIAN R. MICHAEL is in charge of the prosecution.

The charge contained in the Complaint is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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